

not previously described. The added text is taken entirely from text in Fig. 17 and the text in the specification in the above paragraph prior to amendment.

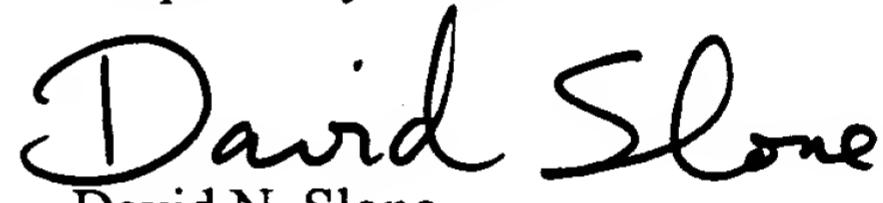
The changes to Fig. 17 merely add labels “OK” and “Not OK” to the branches in each validation step. These labels are self-evident from the fact that each “Not OK” branch explicitly designates an error condition.

No new matter is introduced.

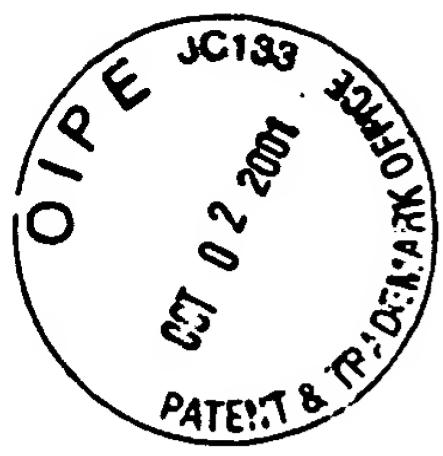
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


David N. Slone
Reg. No. 28,572

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (650) 326-2400
Fax: (415) 576-0300
DNS:dd
PA 3173475 v1



James D. L. Martin et al.
Application No.: 09/902,480
Page 4

PATENT

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 6, so that it reads as follows. A version showing the marked changes is provided below.

U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/290,563, titled "A Method and System for Providing Stamps by Kiosk," by J.P. Leon, et. al., filed May [5] 11, 2001; and

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 27, line 34, and ending on page 28, line 4, so that it reads as follows. A version showing the marked changes is provided below.

Fig. 17 is a flowchart expanding on the check request validity (step 1112) of Fig. 16 of an embodiment of the present invention. At a step 1212 the XML request received from the user system is parsed to check if it is a well formed XML document. If it is not a well formed XML document, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1214. If it is a well formed XML document, at [At] a step 1216 the parsed XML document is validated against the request DTD. If it does not validate, an error code signifying that the XML is not valid is returned at a step 1218. If the XML document is valid, the [The] bitmap is then checked to determine if it is correctly specified (step 1220). If the bitmap is incorrectly specified, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1222. If the bitmap is correctly specified, at a [At] step 1224 the postage type and amount are [is] checked. If the indicium is incorrectly specified, an error code so signifying is returned at a step 1226. If the postage type and amount are correctly specified, at [At] a step 1228 the number of indicia is checked. If too many indicia have been requested, an error code so signifying at a step 1230. If the number of indicia is valid, at [At] a step 1232 the CTID is checked for a duplicate CTID within the 60-day window. If a duplicate CTID is found, an error code so signifying is returned at a step

James D. L. Martin et al.
Application No.: 09/902,480
Page 5

PATENT

1232. If there is no duplicate CTID, the request is considered to be a valid request (block 1234).

PA 3173475 v1